

# ***SOCIAL STUDIES***

A minimum of four courses in Social Studies are required for graduation. The varied course offerings in social studies are designed to provide students opportunities for gaining historical, cultural and global perspectives for developing personal qualities of tolerance, integrity, responsibility, and citizenship. In each course, students will acquire knowledge, locate resources, reinforce skills, and develop confidence through participation in research projects, class discussions, and extensive reading and writing assignments.

All students must pass the required courses for grades 9, 10, 11, and 12. Students may elect additional courses in the Social Studies courses as class their schedule allows.

All Social Studies courses also incorporate the College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for Reading and Writing 9-12. The inclusion of these standards recognizes the critical importance of reading and writing in the content areas. When reading texts students need to be able to analyze, evaluate, and differentiate primary and secondary sources. Similarly, students must become adept at gathering information, evaluating sources, citing material accurately, and reporting findings from the research and analysis of sources in a clear and cogent manner. Students must be able to read and produce these complex informational texts with independence and confidence to meet the standards for college and career readiness.

It is a requirement that all juniors and seniors will complete twenty-four hours of community service each year, consisting of twelve hours per semester. The community service project requires the student to complete written reflections and obtain written verification of their participation in each activity. This community service project factors into each student's second and fourth quarter grade within each required social studies course. Additional information about the community service requirement is posted on the high school's website.

## **World History II: Honors**

**#410**

Students will complete an intensive study of the history of the modern world from 1915 to the present. This honors course is an in-depth treatment of major events and trends of the world. Supplemental readings and primary source documents will be examined. Students will gain an understanding of America's foreign heritage and policy concerns of today. Students enrolled in this class will be required to complete twenty-four hours of community service and complete the requisite paperwork.

## **World History II: Academic**

**#411**

Students will study the history of the modern world from 1915 to the present. Supplementary readings and primary source documents will be examined. Students will gain an understanding of America's foreign heritage and policy concerns of today. Students enrolled in this class will be required to complete twenty-four hours of community service and complete the requisite paperwork.

## **United States History I: Honors**

**#415**

Students in this accelerated course will study the history of the United States from 1763-1877. Topics will be presented through a chronological and thematic approach. Political,

economic, cultural, and geographical influences will be discussed. Students selecting this course should expect numerous supplemental readings and extensive analyses of primary historical sources.

### **United States History I: Academic**

**#416**

Students will study the history of the United States from 1763-1877. Topics will be presented through a chronological and thematic approach. Political, economic, cultural, and geographical influences will be discussed. Supplemental readings and primary source documents will be examined.

### **United States History II: Honors**

**#420**

Students in this accelerated course will study topics in American history from 1877-present. Topics will include the Industrial Revolution, the Progressive Movement, World War II, the Cold War, and the Civil Rights Movement. The study of these topics is intended to help students develop a better sense of the factors that have helped to shape modern America. Students selecting this course should expect numerous supplemental readings and extensive use of both primary and secondary sources.

### **United States History II: Academic**

**#421**

Students will study topics in American history from 1877-present. Topics will include the Industrial Revolution, the Progressive Movement, World War II, the Cold War, and the Civil Rights Movement. The study of these topics is intended to help students develop a better sense of the factors that have helped to shape modern America. Students will be required to examine primary and secondary sources to help enrich their understanding of American history.

### **American Civics and Government: Honors**

**#430**

This course is designed for seniors with a serious interest in the political and economic structures of American society. Special attention will focus on the evolution of American government from the framework outlined in the founding documents to the government and politics of today. Extensive reading of supplementary materials, analysis of documents and issues, and participation in community service are required. Students enrolled in this class will be required to complete twenty-four hours of community service and complete the requisite paperwork.

### **American Civics and Government: Academic**

**#431**

All seniors will examine the various theories and influences that guide American political and economic systems. Special attention will be paid to the evolution of American government from the framework outlined in the founding documents to the government and politics of today. Current issues and trends will be analyzed and discussed. The rights and responsibilities of citizenship on global, national, state, and local levels will be explored. A community service component will be required. Students enrolled in this class will be required to complete twenty-four hours of community service and complete the requisite paperwork.

### **World Economics: Academic**

**#440**

Understanding basic economics is considered an essential skill for students in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. This course cultivates the basic economic literacy and economic thinking skills that will

enable students to think critically and to make better informed personal and public decisions. This course also aims to provide students with the theoretical foundation and functional knowledge in economics to become informed consumers, producers, and citizens in today's world. This will be accomplished through an introduction to both microeconomic and macroeconomic concepts. At the microeconomic level, students will investigate the smaller units of the economy and individual firms and markets. At the macroeconomic level, students will study the global economy and economics of nations and governments in the 20th and 21st as they try to foster growth and stability.

**Junior/Senior Elective; this course may fulfill a Business Education credit toward meetings the student's graduation requirements**

### **Advanced Placement Economics**

**#442**

This course is for the high school student who wishes to develop a greater understanding of the principles of both microeconomics and macroeconomics throughout the course of the year in preparation for the Advanced Placement examination. During the first semester, students will gain an understanding of the principles that apply to individual consumers and firms within the larger economic system. The primary emphasis of study will be on product markets, factor markets, and the government's role in promoting greater competition, efficiency, and equity in the economy. The second semester of the course will deal with the principles of macroeconomics. Students will learn how a nation's economic performance is measured. Primary emphasis will be in the areas of national income, employment, and overall price determination. Issues of international trade and future economic growth will also be studied. The course imposes a heavy reading and writing load throughout the year, and the demands on students are equivalent to a full-year introductory college-level course.

**Students will be required to take either the Advanced Placement Microeconomics or Macroeconomics examination and will have the option to take both examinations.**

**Prerequisite: World Economics, Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II (Honors strongly recommended in all three mathematics courses). This course is a senior elective and does not replace the senior year social studies course requirement (American Civics and Government).**

### **American Legal System: Academic**

**#445**

This course will provide an in-depth perspective of the legal systems of both the United States and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The learner will identify, research, and analyze legal issues ranging from the civil rights guaranteed in the constitution to punishments for civil and criminal deviations from the norm. After establishing a solid foundation in the basic elements of constitutional, criminal, civil, contract, tort, marital, and family law, the learner will apply that knowledge to various case studies and precedents. This course will end with a mock trial that will require the application of all previously mastered material. **Junior/Senior Elective**

### **World Cultures & Religions: Academic**

**#450**

This course will take a geographic approach to contemporary cultures. In addition to learning about the customs and institutions of selected groups in each part of the world, students will focus on understanding the religions and values of the people. Students will learn about each of the world's major religions, as well as selected African and Native American religious

traditions. The final unit of the course examines human rights and the human rights violations that occur in various parts of the world. **Sophomore/Junior/Senior Elective**

**Introduction to Philosophy: Academic**

**#455**

This course is designed for students with an interest in exploring general and fundamental questions concerning human understanding. Students first will be asked to focus upon logic and the development of critical thinking. With this as a foundation, the course will then ask the core questions posed by the main branches of philosophy and their associated philosophers. The branches to be examined are metaphysics/ontology (reality), epistemology (knowledge), political philosophy (justice), ethics (morality), and existentialism (meaning of life). Introduction to Philosophy will ask students to read, research, prepare, and participate at a consistently high level. The overarching goal of the course is to develop students who will possess skills in critical-thinking skills, language use, self-reflection, and an understanding of the world.

**Junior/Senior Elective**

**Modern History through Film: Academic**

**#457**

In Modern History through Film, students will engage with both the events of the past and the differences in the ways that we understand the past over time. As a practical component of the course, students will be expected to watch a number of films, be they excerpted or entire, and may be expected to watch films outside of class. Additionally, students will read scholarly essays, commentaries, book excerpts, and primary sources/historical documents in order to understand the historical setting of the films and evaluate their historical accuracy. Students will also be provided with the vocabulary, concepts and approaches needed to discuss both the cinematic conventions and how they support a filmmaker's underlying purpose in making the film. Participants will ultimately assess films as sources of historical information and consider filmmakers as popular historians. Additionally, students will interact with films that have proven historical significance and appraise the ways in which film can be used as cultural commentary. These activities will ultimately help students to evaluate the influence of context on historical understanding and popular storytelling.

**Senior Elective**

**Modern American Cultural Studies: Academic**

**#458**

This course is intended to give students an opportunity to examine late twentieth century American history through an interdisciplinary lens. Students will examine the literature, art, music, popular culture, politics, and historical circumstances in America from 1950 to the present.

This course will be team taught by two instructors, one from the English department and one from the Social Studies department. It is intended to be taught in a seminar-style setting, much like that which students might experience in classes taught at the college or university level. The focus of the course will be on alternative assessment and instructional methods. There will be a heavy emphasis on student presentation and portfolio work. The major goal of the course is to provide students with an opportunity to focus on an area of American studies in a manner that encourages them to demonstrate their knowledge in different ways in a pre-collegiate setting. **Junior/Senior Elective**

**Contemporary Affairs: Academic****#459**

This course will serve to expose students to contemporary affairs at the local, state, national, and international level. Students will use various types of media (newspapers, internet sites, YouTube®, television, radio, blogs, podcasts, etc.) to gain an understanding of current issues that have a relevance to society. Classes will consist of investigation, discussion, journaling, debates, and presentations/projects. Each day's class will begin with a discussion of current news from various sources and a journal entry. Classes will then progress into understanding the vocabulary, context, history, geography and other interdisciplinary topics regarding the contemporary affairs of the week through both student discovery and teacher-based instruction. Particular areas of study may include current elections, human rights, local issues, foreign affairs, understanding/evaluating the news media, pop culture, and pertinent news stories as they happen. **Junior/Senior Elective**

**Psychology: Academic****#465**

This course concentrates on the historic, scientific, and practical aspects of psychology. Students will identify, research, and analyze numerous psychological theories and their theorists. The application of this knowledge will be demonstrated through the practice of introspection and the development of psychological experiments. **Junior/Senior Elective**

**Introduction to Sociology & Anthropology: Academic****#466**

Students will study cultures, institutions, and customs of United States and other traditional societies around the world. This course will use sociology and anthropology to understand human development and behavior, family influence, education, gender roles, race, social class, and sports in society, as well as exploring how social groups, communities, institutions, and the media greatly influence individual behaviors. Social experiments conducted by students both in class and outside of class will further demonstrate various sociological concepts and theories. Throughout the course, students will also examine and discuss issues such as prejudice and discrimination, wealth and poverty, and crime and violence in the United States. **Junior/Senior Elective**

**Advanced Placement Government & Politics: United States****#470**

Through a rigorous and demanding curriculum, students will analyze government and politics in the United States. Students will study both the general concepts used to interpret U.S. politics and specific relevant examples. They will be familiar with the numerous institutions, groups, beliefs, and ideas that constitute U.S. politics as well as the theoretical perspectives and explanations for various behaviors and outcomes.

Students will be expected to read and synthesize information from a college textbook, interpret primary sources, and analyze articles from academic journals. Students will be required to complete a highly challenging summer reading list and in-depth vacation projects. This course fulfills the senior Social Studies requirement. Therefore, community service will be one of the grading components. Students enrolled in this class will be required to complete twenty-four hours of community service and complete the requisite paperwork. The course is designed to reflect the academic expectations and rigor of a college-level course as delineated by the College Board. Summer assignments are required to be completed. It is the responsibility of the student to obtain this summer work prior to leaving school in June. **Students will be required to take**

**the Advanced Placement United States Government and Politics exam. Senior Elective (may be taken to replace the required course Civics and Government)**

**Prerequisite: United States History I Honors strongly recommended; United States History II Honors strongly recommended.**

### **Advanced Placement World History**

**#475**

Advanced Placement World History is for the high school senior who wishes to develop a greater understanding of the evolution of global processes and contacts including interactions over time. The course is based on a global perspective of the world and human interactions from 8000 BCE to present day. Students refine their analytical abilities and critical thinking skills in order to understand historical and geographical context, make comparisons across cultures, use documents and other primary sources, and recognize and discuss different interpretations and historical frameworks. Course themes include the interaction between humans and the environment, development and interaction of cultures, state building and expansion and conflict, creation, expansion and interaction of economic systems, and development and transformation of social structures. The course imposes a heavy reading and writing load throughout the year, and the demands on students are equivalent to a full-year introductory college-level course. The course is designed to reflect the academic expectations and rigor of a college-level course as delineated by the College Board. Summer assignments are required to be completed. It is the responsibility of the student to obtain this summer work prior to leaving school in June.

**Students will be required to take the Advanced Placement World History examination.**

**Prerequisite: World History II (Honors strongly recommended). This course is a Senior Elective and does not replace the senior year social studies course requirement (American Civics and Government).**

### **Advanced Placement United States History**

**#480**

Advanced Placement United States History is designed to be the equivalent of a college-level course. Through a rigorous and demanding curriculum, students will further their study of United States history from pre-Columbian societies to the present. The course is designed to develop students' critical thinking skills and overall factual knowledge of the subject. Students will utilize information gathered from a variety of sources including a college-level textbook, primary sources, and academic journals. Themes of the course include American diversity, American identity, culture, demographic changes, economic transformations, the environment, globalization, politics and citizenship, reform, religion, slavery and its legacies, and war and diplomacy. The course is designed to reflect the academic expectations and rigor of a college-level course as delineated by the College Board. Summer assignments are required to be completed. It is the responsibility of the student to obtain this summer work prior to leaving school in June. **Students will be required to take the Advanced Placement United States History examination. Junior/Senior Elective**

**This course is a junior/senior elective and does not replace either the junior or senior year social studies course requirement (World History II; Civics and Government, respectively).**

**Prerequisite: United States History I Honors strongly recommended; United States History II Honors strongly recommended**

## **Advanced Placement Psychology**

**#485**

This course is designed to meet the requirements of the Advanced Placement Psychology curriculum and to prepare students for success on the Advanced Placement Psychology examination. The course will further prepare students with a thorough foundation of the scope and fundamentals of psychology. Careful examination and analysis of psychological experiments will be a major feature of the course. Students will also be required to prepare and execute their own psychological experiments under the direction of the teacher. Particular attention will also be directed to the overwhelming evidence linking biology and psychology. To this end, specific areas of study will include the cognitive (nervous system; sensory processes; perception; learning; consciousness; memory; thought; and language), as well as the psychological (motivation, emotion, and stress; growth and development; psychological assessment; personality; psychological disorder; and social psychology). Students will be expected to write extensively and critically on these and other issues, participate in class discussions, read extensively, and make presentations in class. Summer assignments are required to be completed. It is the responsibility of the student to obtain this summer work prior to leaving school in June.

**Students will be required to take the Advanced Placement Psychology examination. Senior Elective**

**Prerequisite: Psychology**